

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 173499

16

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R 231902Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS STATE 173499

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPRO, MO

SUBJECT: WATER DESALINATION PROJECT

1. LAST FALL, AS POST AWARE, MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY (MECO) REP VISITED MOROCCO TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE WATER DESALINATION PROJECT WITH GOM, IN COMPANY OF CHARLES MCKAY COMPANY REP JOHN CANTON, PER INTEREST NOTED RABAT 4155 OF AUGUST 30, 1974 AND SUBSEQUENT EMBASSY MESSAGES. ACCORDING TOM WILLETTTS, MECO DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, PLANS WAS TO BUILD 50,000 GALLON TRIAL INSTALLATION WITH PROVISION FOR LATER EXPANSION. PRINCIPAL GOM CONTACTS WERE MINAGRICULTURE AND MR. SEMLALI, HEAD OF REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT IN MINAGRICULTURE.

MECO HAS HEARD NOTHING ABOUT PROJECT FROM EITHER GOM OR MCKAY REP FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND IS CURIOUS WHETHER PROJECT STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY GOM.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY INQUIRY TO DETERMINE STATUS OF GOM INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT AND MECO'S PARTICIPATION IN IT. FYI. MECO REPORTEDLY HAS OTHER DESALINATION PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN OMAN, ABU DHABI, KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA. END FYI. KISSINGER

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